NEWSNOTES

'Air, Land and Sea Times' Transition
The last publication of the Air, Land and
Sea times is Dec. 13, 2013. After Dec. 13, the
paper will no longer be published in a print
version. The Joint Base Public Affairs team
will continue to use other methods of communication, including the joint base public
web page, Social Media and dissemination of
an E-times. See page 7 for a complete outline
of the JB MDL Public Affairs new communication approach.

Law Enforcement Desk Relocated

Law Enforcement Desk Relocated The 87th Security Forces Squadron law enforcement desk is now located at the new Emergency Control Center, located at 2301 Van-denberg Ave. For all emergencies call 911. All non-emergencies, call 754-6001.

174th Infantry Brigade

Change of Command
The 174th Infantry Brigade is scheduled to
host a change of command ceremony at 10 a.m.
today, at the Fleet Logistics Support Squadron
(VR 64), located at 3370 Wonnacott Road. Call 562-6553 for more information.

Free Holiday Concert
The 87th Air Base Wing is set to host a free
holiday concert starring country star Jason Mithael Carroll from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, at the
Base Theater, located at 200 Tuskegee Airmen
Ave. Call 754-5327 for more information.

Motivational Speaking Engagement
The 87th Air Base Wing is set to hoet a Motivational Speaking Engagement from 2-3 p.m.
today, at the Timmermann Center, located
at 5441 Pennsylvania Ave. Guest speaker is
Randy Brown, Mayor of Evesham Township,
N.J. and Baltimore Raverns kicking coach. The
event is free to all Department of Defense ID
cardholders.

Passport Photo Service
The Joint Base Photo Lab will provide passport photo service from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec.
7, 2013, at 3011 Tuskegee Drive. The service is
being offened to the Army/Air National Guard
and Reserve personnel. Call 754-3581 for more
information.

Palace Chase and Palace Front Briefings Palace Chase and Palace Front Briefings The joint base recruiter for the Air Force Re-serves is set to host two briefings at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Dec. 11, 2013, at the Kish Airman Leadership School Auditorium, located at 2411 McGuire Blvd. The Palace Front allows service members the opportunity to seamlessly transfer directly from active duty without a break in ser-vice. Call (302) 387-9334 for more information.

87th Comptroller Squadron Closure The 87th Comptroller Squadron will be closed from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 13, 2013.

Joint base gate closure

Several of the joint base gates will be closed to perform Preventative Maintenance on the wedge barriers and crash beams. Below is the schedule with minimal affect to base traffic.

Dec. 17, 2013 Checkpoint 2 (Browns Mills) Outbound Lanes: 8:15 t Inbound Lanes: 9 to 9

Checkpoint 3 (Pemberton) 12:45 to 1:30 p.m.

Outbo Inbound Lanes: 1:30 to 1:45 p.m.

Dec. 18, 2013

Checkpoint 1 (Wrightstor Outbound Lanes: 8: Inbound Lanes: 9 town) 8:15 to 9 a.m. 9 to 9:15 a.m

Checkpoint 7 (Route 68) 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. 1:45 to 2:15 p.m.

Alternate dates: Dec. 23, 2013 for Checkpoint 1 & 3 Dec. 24, 2013 for Checkpoint 1 & 7

American Red Cross Blood Drive American Red Cross Blood Drive The American Ped Cross isset to host a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec 17-18, 2013, at Tommy B's Community Activities Center, located at 2705 East Arnold Ave. Visit www. redcrossblood.org/ make-donation. Once you click on this link, type "McCiure" in the "Enter Sponsor Code" box, and you will be able to select an appointment. Call '754-9573 for more information or to make an appointment.

915th Contingency Contracting Battalion
The 915th Contingency Contracting Battalion is seeking officers, captain through major, any branch and sergeant (promotable) through sengeant 1st class, any military occupational specialty, interested in a career change. Immediate vacancies and opportunities are available. Visit www.hrc.army.mil/Milper/13-205 or asc. army.mil/web/career-development/military-nco/usar-reclassification-program for more information.

See more NEWSNOTES on Page 10

HMLA-773 'Red Dogs: mission accomplished'



U.S. Marines take time from their training schedule to pose with Nigerian children Oct. 18, 2013. More than 90 Marine and Sailors, made up of different military occupational specialties, went through month of various training exercises an courses to ensure the success of Africa Partnership Station 13. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Marco Manchai/Released)

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Public Affairs

Marines and Sailors from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst N.J. Marine Light A ttack Helicopter Squadron 773, recently re-turned from an overseas deployment highlighting a successful mission with NATO and African forces.

mission with NATO and African forces.
From Aug. 19 through Nov. 17, 2013, 33 Marines and Sailors from three of HMLA-773's detachments deployed with two UH-1N Hueys, from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst along with 62 Marines from Second Assault Amphibian Battallion from Camp aLejeune, N.C.
"This was the first time U.S. armed forces deployed on a Dutch ship and my first time deploying in non-combat role," said U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Charles Watkins, HMLA-773 pilot and security cooperation task force officer in charge for African

Partnership Station 13.

Partnership Station 13.

After a week stay in Rota, Spain, the Marines spent time polishing up their skills in Marine Corps Martial Arts, fast roping, helicopter operations and running the obstacle courses before joining their counterparts from Holland, Spain and the United Kingdom aboard the Royal Netherlands Navy landing platform dock HNLMS Rotterdam. Operation AFS 13 began August 30, as part of a three-month comprehensive effort to strengthen capabilities with African partner forces along the West Africa coast.

"We had an extremely enjoyable experience integrating with the other NATO forces, as well as working hand-in-hand with the African forces," said Watkins, of Jamestown, N.Y.

The ship and the combined security cooperation task force

Injured Airman returns to duty

By 1st Lt. Alexis McGee Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Brian Williams of the 87th Security Forces Squadron is just like any other Airman.

He has been in the Air Force for 13 years, has deployed six times and served as a military working dog handler at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., since 2011

2011. He is a Phoenix, Ariz, native who en-joys watching his favortie team, the Caro-lina Panthers play, reading comic books and playing video games. Williams is unique though. He re-turned to work Oct. 28, 2013, after a year and a half hiatus from his MWD duties. Williams was on a temporary duty.

Williams was on a temporary duty assignment not for training or career de

assignment not for training or career development, but for secovery.
During his second deployment to Afgharistan, in 2012, Williams was severely injured when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was on patrol. He was approximately mid-way through his six-month deployment when the explosion occurred. He suffered the loss of his left leg above the knee, as well as multiple shrapnel wounds. He spent the past year and half recovering at the Walter Reed National Milliarry Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., undergoing more than in Bethesda, Md., undergoing more than 15 surgeries and enduring more than 500 hours of rehabilitation therapy.

Williams was invited to a strategic offsite planning conference held Oct. 30,

ery Story

Staff Sgt. Brian Williams, 87th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, hugs his fiancee, Staff Sgt. Emily Christofaro, after finding out he received a promotion to technical sergeant Oct. 30, 2013, at the New Jersey National Guard Armory in Bordentown, N.J. Williams returned to duty after recovering from an improvised explosive device attack while deployed to Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Alexis McGeeRfeleased).

See WILLIAMS, Page 3

Leaders serve Navy announces

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and civic leaders

work the chow line during a Thanksgiv-ing lunch Nov. 28, 2013, at

lunch

Halverson
Hall, JB MDL, N.J. Senior
leaders from across JB MDL
come together every year to serve
the Thanksgiving

promotions The names of more than 21,000 active-duty, 1,800 Reserve and 500 full-time-

500 full-time-support Sail-ors selected for advance-ment to E4, E5 and E6

were released Nov. 26, 2013. Sailors may view their profile sheets on Navy Knowledge Online.

tysburg Soldiers assigned to the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, First Army Division East

Brigade visits Get-

First Army beautificipated in a staff ride Nov. 26, 2013 to Getherburg Natysburg Na-tional Park,

Pa. The visit wrapped up a month of research and training on the Gettysburg Campaign.

Check out IR MDL on social media!



Develop study plan that works for you

By Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Edem 51st Maintenance Group

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea- The OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea—The weighted airman promotion season is back; chief master sergeant promotion testing period has just ended while senic master sergeant, master sergeant, echni-cal sergeant and staff sergeant cycles are for a presentation.

fast approaching.

My message, if you don't read any further, is to study for promotion; I mean really study for your promotion.

For our enlisted force, this is one thing

For our enlisted force, this is one thin that always amazes me; marry people jut don't study for their Promotion Ritness Exam and Specialty Knowledge Test. If you observe the average scores for these tests over the years, the majority hover somewhere around a 55 to 65 percent.

The one thing I have always had in my feavy with peeards to promotion is.

my favor with regards to promotion is that my peers did not always study, so I thought to myself, why not use this to my advantage? The strange part about it is that when asking those not selected for they did. However, when you really peel it back, what they actually did is just read the Professional Development Guide, or glance over their Career Development Course, a few times.

In most cases, this method of "study" in proparation for party assessment or or.

Course, a rew manes.

In most cases, this method of "study" in preparation for any assessment or examination will not be very successful. Being fully prepared and ready requires more time than just a glance over; you must digest and absorb the PDC and CDC materials and any other career field requirements to do well.

For me it is best to know the material and know how it applies. After 26 years, I still reference those books to remain well versed in my job and as an Air Force professional. Find the method that works for you and stick to it.

A first step in the right direction may be to set a goal and develop a plan to tackle it in a way that helps you retain the most information and understanding. Things like making flash cards, notes, us-

Trings like making flash cards, notes, us-ing audio aids, setting study time and du-ration and changing venue (home, library or community center) may assist you in

staying focused and on course.

Just reading through the books provided will not get it done. Most of all, you have to commit yourself, this can even be a family commitment for some.

Personally, every time I prepared for an exam, my wife and children didn't see much of me, especially at right or on weekends. My family understood that in order to put a study plan into action and effectively achieve a goal, I needed to isolate myself in a separate room, or go to the base library.

To be entirely prepared you must be prompt and reliable with honesty to yourself in planning, scheduling and execution. Additionally, total commitment to the mission and your job while simultaneously taking advantage of this systematic developmental opportunity will go a long way towards ensuring success. So think about it, do you want to get

and developmental opportunity wing of a long way towards ensuring success. So think about it, do you want to get promoted, expand your level of leader-ship and accept more responsibility? If so, it starts with a real study plan, one that works for you ... and staying devoted to it.

JB MDL Airman's victory over weight loss

By Master Sgt. Andrew G. Cosner 621st Contingency Response Wing

Hey there. Can we be honest with each other for a moment? I

Hey there. Can we be honest with each other for a moment? I have a secret to share: I'm you. Specifically, I'm a person whose weight has been slowly creeping up for the past 10 years, until for me it started hovering around the 260 pound mark. I'm the one frantically going around telling people that I'm 'big-boned',' or 'I'm jus built that way.' I'm the guy who consistently makes 75-78 on my fitness assessment, because it's what I need to pass. Yeah, I'm that guy, And I'm willing to bet that in some ways, you are too. Now, don't worry. I'm not judging. That would be a bit hypocritical, wouldn't it? I'm just saying that it's time we stopped dancing around the subject. We use these statements to build defenses around ourselves. Each one is a brick designed to keep us content, and safe from the truth. Well my walls became a castle, with towers of denial and a most of self-justification. It got so bad that I would be genuinely proud of my 76.8 point physical training test victory, then would congratulate myself by going out and eating an entire bucket of fried chicken. (Yes, an entire bucket. Don't you judge). But there was a problem. My castle wasn't made of bricks at all. It was made of cards and it was about to collapse.

The I know what you're shinking. You think I failed a I'T test, right? Well I did, just not recently. I failed it way back in 2010. But this didn't even make a dent in my castle walls. You see, that's how these things work. When we build our ramparts of denial, we cut ourselves off from external influence and mine were thick and strong.

No, any change would have to come from within. It came, as change often does, when I least expected it. I came back from a deployment weighing 273 onunds. I simply could not believe it. I stood frozen, embarrassed and ashamed, and trying desperately to find an excuse that would absolve me fro facts. The scale was broken! No. The food had been misla

facis. The scale was broken! No. The food had been mislabeled! No. I hadn't been given appropriate time! No. Nothing would stick to these walls, walls which had suddenly become my cage. I was finally out of people to blame.

I was to blame. I saw a vision of the future that included getting kicked out of the millitary amid ever-worsening medical problems and made up my mind then and there that enough was enough. I had gotten myself here through years of neglect and I was the only person who could dig myself out. I didn't know where to go or what to do. I simply knew it was my responsibility to act.

But how does one begin? There are dozens if not hundreds of fitness programs available to choose from, and they all seemed to contradict each other. I knew I needed to eat less food, but how much was the fight amount? I didn't exhon whom how much I was

contradict each other. I knew I needed to eat less food, but how much was the right amount? I didn't even know how much I was currently eating. I had just found step one.

It wasn't hard to get in the habit of logging my food, since my phone is with me all the time anyway, and I found plenty of free apps. I found something interesting in the process, though. The very act of pulling out my phone and preparing to log mintake gave me I 0 extra seconds to ask myself, "is what I'm about to eat really worth it?" More often than not, the answer was "no."

Service member spotlight: successful, productive

assistant training chief, is the joint base's featured service member of the week. Hutchinson hails from Lewiston, Maine.

Q: Why did you join the military?

A: I always wanted to be a Marine ever since I was 7 years old.

Q: What is your job and what is its impact on the mission?

A: My job is to ensure MAG-49 Marines get all the annual training completed for the year. Ma-rines cannot deploy or reenlist if their training is not complete.

Or to complete.
Q: Do you have any past or current family members in the military?
A: Yes, my uncle, Mike, was in the Marines from the late 70s to early 80s.
Q: Who most inspires you?
A: My uncle inspires me the most.
Q: What is one thing you'd like your fellow service members to take away or understand about the military? the military?

A: The military is what you make it. If you think something is terrible, that is exactly what your ex-perience is going to be.



(U.S. Air Force courtesy photo/Released)

Joint base leaders help Airmen get 'stuffed'



Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and civic leaders work the chow line during a Thanksgiving lunch Nov. 28, 2013, at Halverson Hall, JB MDL, N.J. Senior leaders from across JB MDL come together every year to serve the Thanksgiving meal and show their grafitude for the work service members do at the base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ryan Throneberry/Released)

COMMANDER'S **ACTION LINE**



Col. James C. Hodges

Commander, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and 87th Air Base Wing

87th Air Base Wing
The Joint Base Commander's
Action Line is an integral part of
the base feedback network. Base
personnel are urged to use the
proper chain of command first to
address their concerns.
If you are not satisfied with the
response from your chain of command, or you are unable to
resolve the problem or concern,
please call 754-3247 or e-mail
87abw.actionline@meguire.af.mil.
Action lines may be made
anonymously, however it is reccommended you leave your name
and number in case more information is needed to address your
concern.



Vol. 4 No. 49

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bers of the military services. Contents of the Air, Land and Sea Times are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Military.

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NEWS ONLINE

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Most articles and

announcements published in the Air, Land & Sea Times are available online at the JB MDL public Web site.

For up-to-date joint base news & info visit: www.jointbasemdl.af.mil



Petty officer advancement results released

By From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs WASHINGTON— The

names of more than 21,000 names of more than 21,000 active-duty, 1,800 Reserve and 500 full-time-support Sailors selected for advancement to E4, E5 and E6 were released Nov. 26, 2013.

"Congratulations to all the Sailors who advanced this cycle," said Master Chief Petty Officer April Chief Petty Officer April Beldo, Manpower, Person-nel, Training, and Educa-tion fleet master chief. "You earned this through hard work and dedication to the Navy, and it demon-strates your ability to step into greater positions of leadership." Commands may view results on the Navy Enlist-

Visit www.navy. mil/ah_online/documents/CY220AD.pdf for to stay Navy and advance."

active-duty petty officer

Visit www.navy.mil/ ah_online/documents/ CY220RS.pdf for reserv petty officer results.
Visit www.navy.mil/

ah_online/documents/ CY220FTS.pdf for FTS petty officer results.

Visit www.navy.mil/ ah_online/documents/ CY220RC.pdf for recruit-er canvasser petty officer results. "After every exam w

ask leadership, our chief's mess and our first classes to sit down with those petty officers who didn't advance." said Beldo. Commands may view results on the Navy Enliss "Through career developed Advancement System website and Sailors may view their profile sheets on Navy Knowledge Online. Use the following links to view the names of Sailors selected for advancement: Visit www.n.avy. these Sailors understand "Through career developthese Sailors understand there is still an opportunity



Newly promoted Sailors assigned to the AirTest and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 1 wait to receive their frocking letters during a ceremony in the hangar bay June 3, 2013. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kenneth Abbate/Released

Williams

Continued from Page 1

2013, at the New Jersey National Guard Armory in Bordentown, N.J., to share his recovery story with 87th Air

dentown, N.J., to snare his recovery story with 8/th Air Base Wing leadership.

As he told his story, he said that just prior to his de-ployment he purchased a \$20 Casio watch to wear while deployed. He said he kept the time set to the time zone back home so he always knew what time it was back in the U.S. After he returned to the U.S. following the explosion, one of his doctors told him that had he not been wearing the unassuming watch, he probably would have lost his left hand completely. "So if you don't have a 20 dollar Casio watch, you

might want to get one," he joked as he told his reco

williams' fiancée Staff Sgt. Emily Christofaro joined Williams during the conference to tell about the recovery from her perspective and to thank her leadership for providing the means to let her help Williams through his

providing the means to let her help Williams through his recovery.

"Don't let your troops fall under the radar," Christofaro said to the leadership. "If there is a single Airman in your unit who gets injured and doesn't have anyone to help through the secovery process, let him or her have someone."

Christofaro credited her leadership with making it possible for her to stay with Williams as he recovered. She stayed by his side almost consistently during the first nine months of his recovery.

"Had Emily not been there (during my recovery), I just don't know how it would have been," said Williams. Williams said his recovery thus far has not been easy, but it has been dotted with some unforgettable experiences. As soon as he began his recovery, Williams asked his leadership about the feasibility of adopting his military working dog, Carly, who was by his side on the day of the accident. They assured him they would look into it, but since Carly was still in good health and could still perform adequately as a MWD, he chances were slim.

Members of the SFS MWD section brought Carly down to Betheeda on multiple occasions to visit his friend and partner as Williams' leadership continued their pursuit to have Carly adopted out as his service dog.

At the end of June 2013, Williams had a meeting, scheduled with the Secretary of the Air Force at the time, Secretary Michael Donley to discuss Carly's adoption. During the meeting, Donley told Williams that he had heard that Williams warreed to adopt Carly as a service dog. Williams warreed to adopt Carly as a service dog. His man warreed to adopt Carly as a service dog. Williams warreed to adopt Carly as a service dog. Williams warreed to adopt Carly as a service dog. Williams severes the interest in the adoption and Donley the meeting, Dordey told Williams that he had heard that Williams wanted to adopt Carly as a service dog. Williams expressed his interest in the adoption and Dordey asked him how he felt about being able to adopt Carly "ctoday." Soon after, Master Sgt. Mike Sherry, 87th SFS kennel master, and Chief Master Sgt. Scott Pepper, 87th SFS manager, walked Carly in the room to transfer Carly over to Williams.

Williams was officially presented with Carly during a small ceremony at JB MDL Aug. 28, 2013.

During the conference, Williams said that not once during his time in Bethesda did he ever feel lost or forgotten by the base populous.

the base populous. As a further demonstration of the fact that he was never As a further demonstration of the fact that he was never forgotten, Col. James Hodges, 87th Air Base Wing commander, along with Lt. Col. Partick Steen, 87th 1875 commander and Pepper thanked Williams for sharing his story and presented him with a surprise he never saw coming. In what was a heart-wrenching moment for all in attendance, Hodges announced that Williams was selected for promotion to the rank of technical sergeant effective Nov. 1, 2013.

"I was just as surprised as anyone else there," said Williams. "I still can't believe I'm Tech. Sgt. Williams." Williams adults that he couldn't have done all he has without the robust support of his leadership.
"I just want to do what they expect of me, which is to lead Airmen," he said of his leadership. "And I am so thankful to my leadership for finding me worthy of this promotion."

promotion."

Williams has had a long journey to recovery, but despite

Williams has not a long journey to recovery, our despite his injuries he continues to stand ready to serve. "Yes I lost most of my leg, but my heart and brain still work and that's all I need," he said. When looking to the future, Williams said his long-term goal is to retire at no less than a master sergeant. And for the short term, "I want to be able to run again," he said.

Operation Santa Claus opens shop



Operation Santa Claus treasurer, gives members of Joint Base-McGuire-Dix-our of building 5343 Operation Santa Nov. 25, 2013, at JB MDL. Bowker who h dership, a tour of building 5343 Operation Santa Nov. 25, 2013, at JB MDL. Bowker who has been Santa nee 1993 receives and also checks the donated toys that will be distributed to children of all the branches service here. Each child can browse up to 15 minutes and pick out three new gifts. Operation Santa is in ed of gifts for ages 14-16 and also newborns. (U.S. Air Force photo by Russ Meseroll/Released)







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87th CES EM edifies Airmen to survive





ABOVE: Senior Airman Maria Navarro, 87th Civil Engineer Squadron Emergency Management specialist, explains procedures during the Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear survival skills training class Nov. 27, 2013, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The class instructs on using protective gear against foreign agents and how to identify them in an attack. Navarro hails from Long Beach, Calif. (U.S. Air Force bohoto by Russ Messeroli/Feleased)

ABOVE RIGHT: Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey, Green, 87th Civil Engineer Squadron Emergency Management specialist, explains decontamination procedures during the Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear survival skills training class Nov. 27, 2013, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The class instructs on

87th MDG launches self-care program

What if you or someone in your family had symptoms of a minor illness such as diarrhea, itchy watery eyes, nasal congestion, ough, headache, allergies, fever, sinus congestion or sore throat? If you are like many service members, you would pick up the phone and call the 87th Medical Group to schedule an appointment to see your medical provider. However, many of these symptoms can be treated quickly and just as effectively at home using self-care and over-the-counter medications.

The 87 MDC has implemented the Self-Initiated Care Kit program or SICK. The SICK program is a patient-centered initiative designed to empower members to recognize the signs and symptoms of illness and initiate treatment with over-the-counter medications.

The SICK program enables active duty members to access a variety of over-the-counter medications without being seen by a provider. This saves the member and the Air Fonce time and money.

According to Maj. Angela Widder, 87th Medical Operations Squadon Family Health Clinic medical director, this program will reduce work and training time lost by military members withing to meetic medical director, the program will reduce work and training time lost by military members and emoney members memour men.

tions Squadron Family Health Clinic medical director, this program will reduce work and training time loos by military members waiting to receive medical care, empower members to be responsible for their personal health and reduce cost by decreasing unnecessary medical visits.

The SICK program is currently available only to active duty military members enrolled at the 87 MDG Family Health Clinic. Members who wish to participate must attend a 30 minute briefing held during the Newcomers Orientation and twice weekly at the 87 MDG clinic. Upon completion of the briefing, members will receive a self-care book and SICK program prescription card. This card will grant the member access to the pharmacy for a limited quantity of self-care medications.

If you would like additional information about this program or wish to schedule an individual appointment please call 1-866-DRS-APPT. To schedule briefing for your unit or squadronduring Commander's Calls, please email

unit or squadron during Commander's Calls, please email Maj. Melinda Williamson at melinda.williamson@us.af.mil. For more information on self-care measures, please visit www.webmd.com.



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The spouses of JB MDL are gearing up to bring our service members in the dorms and those mobilizing and demobilizing during the holidays some festive cheer! Help us collect and deliver 18,000 cookies for Operation Cookie Drop!

Thursday, December 12th

Drop off cookies from 0700-1100 at the following locations: Dix Chapel (5240 New Jersey Ave.) McGuire Chapel (2503 E. Arnold Ave.) United Communities Office (3700A Circle Drive) Lakehurst Building 488 (Military Family Support Center)

> No special containers necessary, but colorfully-decorated, home-baked cookies are a hit!

VOLUNTEER! Sign up to collect or package cookies on McGuire or Dix. Contact Stephanie Higley 405-219-0170 or StephanieHigley@hotmail.com



72nd F.A. Bde. visits Gettysburg

By Capt. Kelvin O. Scott 72nd Field Artillery Brigade Public Affairs

IOINT BASE MCGUIRE DIX LAKEHURST, N.J. —Sol-diers assigned to the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, First Army Division East participated in a staff ride Nov. 26, 2013 to Gettysburg National Park.
The visit wrange

The visit wrapped up a month of research and training

month of research and training on the Gettysburg Campaign. Roughly 51,000 Soldiers were killed, wounded, captured or missing during the first three days of the 1863 Gettysburg's Campaign, commonly referred to as the Battle of Gettysburg. While this occurred 148 yea ago, the lessons learned rema

ago, the lessons learned remain relevant in 2013. "Gettysburg is a foundation for understanding the strategic and operational worth of unified land operations," said Lt. Col. Kevin Johnston, 2-315th Field Artillery Battalion com-mander. "Elements of research mander. "Elements of research, understanding and training are useful in the exercise of com-mand and control in today's complex battlefield."

The 28 Soldiers in atten-

The visit also allowed the The visit also allowed the chance to appreciate the life of an 1863 artillerymen. "We now have a heightened awareness of field artillery from then to now," explained Maj. Paul Otto. "We saw a snapshotof how our persession has promot heavy on the control of the change of the change

overview which consisted of intelligence preparation of the battlefield, order of battle and crew drills on a Model 1887 12-Pounder Napoleon Field Gun battle from the viewpoint of the ground commanders," said Campbell. "The lessons learned

here have a direct impact on how we lead and fight today." First Army Division East advises, assists and trains reserve-component forces prior to now; explained Maj. Paul Otto.
"Wesaw a rangshot of how of the provided as durt profession has grown throughout the years."

Otto's sentiment was echoed es as well as during



dance were given a campaign

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Vietnam vet art-vendor 'paints a picture'

By 2nd Lt. Carrie Volpe Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Public Affairs

As you walk through the double-door entrance at your local Exchange, you are greeted by many different types of ven-dors, some of which routinely travel to dors, some of which routinely travel to different bases around the world. Occa-sionally you are welcomed by beautiful, patriotic and military-themed paintings. Your eyes connect with images of Afghani-stan, Iraq, Korea, Vletnam and more. You'll see colorful depictions of your brothers and sisters in arms, symbolic bald eagles and flashes of red. white and blue. and flashes of red, white and blue.

As you pass by, you take a moment to reflect on the history that is carefully hand-depicted in the prints. Each image represents a story, a snapshot in time; you're so intrigued that you barely notice the man in the background standing near the register, the salesman. Unbeknownst to many, that man has an interesting story of his o history that is rich in patriotism an that embodies the American dream; a story that cannot be told in a painting. Lew Iwlew, 67, is the owner and found-

Lew Iwiew, 67, is the owner and round-er of Vladimir Arts. His company special-izes in military-themed paintings and works closely with units to commemo-rate significant moments and events in history. The foundation and inspiration for this company began many years ago, and came from a unique culmination of events in Lew's life.

events in Lew's life. In 1943, in the midst of World War IJ, many Russians were captured by the Ger-mans when they invaded Russia. They were sent to Germany to join tens of thou-sands of other captives who comprised a slave-labor force, which was us supplement the manpower deficit during the war.

One couple, Serifim and Olga Iwlew were separated and sent to work on differ-ent camps in northern Germany. Olga and the couple's 4-year old son, Victor, were sent the comples style at on Std, vincin, where sent to a women's camp. After the war ended in 1945, the family was reunited by British soldiers and placed in a refugee camp in Ladhe, Germany. Nine months later, Olga gave birth to their second child, a son, whom they named Vladimir. Today, he goes by the name Lew.

In 1948, when Lew was only 2 years.

In 1948, when Lew was only 2 years old, his mother Olga passed away in an accident. Serifim later married a woman acciont. Serimi later married a woman named Feodosia who had a child of her own, a daughter, Zina. Lew and his family spent the next three years in the displacement camp in Germany. The couple and their three children were sponsored by a church organization and sent to the United States in 1951.

As they approached their destination, Ellis Island, N.Y., a young Lew and his family anxiously awaited their arrival. While everyone buzzed with excitement about arriving in America, 5-year-old Lew was more impressed with the two oranges

he was given.
"I remember they brought everybody

"Tremember they brought everybody on much different terms this time. Once a from the hull of the ship, as we entered young child in a refugee camp there, he the harbor, everyone was saying, 'America', America' and someone handed me two oranges," Lew said. "I kept saying 'T have two oranges!"

The trip from Germany

The trip from Germany

Devid S. Hulbert, MD, FACOG

Devid S. Hulbert, MD, FACOG

Lord M. Grisko, RN, APN - C

to America was not free The church that supported The church that supported the Iwlew family was from Wooster, Ohio, and Lew's family had to pay them back for the voyage. "They were good to us, they took care of us," he recalled. Lew's older siblings and his parents worked on a farm for a farm for a farm for the work of the work of the work of the work. six months and paid their debt in full.

The Iwlew family moved to Kalamazoo, Mich., where they shared a two-bedroom apartment with another family they knew from Rus-sia. Lew, like many young



Lew Iwlew, owner of Vladimir Arts, explains the history of a painting to a custo Sept. 14, 2013, at the post Exchange, Fort George G. Meade, Md.Vladimir Arts: cializes in military-themed art work and can be found at various Army and Air F. Exchange Service locations. (U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Carrie Volpe/Released)

U.S. Army and shipped off to boot camp.

Six weeks into his training with the Army, officials began making selections for Officer Candidate School. Lew had six credit-hours at the time and was one of two selected out of approximately 110 Soldiers from bit basic stations on company. He didn't from his basic training company. He didn't know what OCS was, but at the time it seemed like a better option than kitchen police, so he took it. He was sent off to

earn his commission at Fort Benning, Ga.
Upon graduating from OCS in 1967,
he left for Fort Walters, Texas, to attend flight school. There was a six-month wait-ing period for his class to begin, but Lew stayed busy—the military had organized baseball teams!

"My first job as a second lieute playing baseball," he chuckled. "I had a

After completing flight school, he was shipped off to Vietnam in 1969. Now a first enant. Lew served as the 4th Battalion lieutenant, Lew served as the 4th Battalion Maintenance Officer. He had a strong de-sire to fly, so he extended his tour in the war-torn country. Cetting his wish, he tran-sitioned to Bravo Company, 4th Aviation Battalion, 4th Infantry Division where he flew the AH-1G Cobra helicopter. After 19 months and 19 days at war, Lew finally left Vietnam and headed to Panama. Lew spent a year-and-a-half in Panama

before he returned to Fort Benning, Ga. He made the rank of captain and then at-tended the Army's 10-month-long Cap-tain's Course. Upon graduation, he was reassigned to the country of his birth, but on much different terms this time. Once a

Dolores C. Fee, RN, APN – C Lori M. Grisko, RN, APN – C Tyra R. Jones, RN, APN – C Jennifer J. Shiroff, RN, APN – C

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Columbus Office 45B Homestead Drive Columbus, NJ 08022 609-324-7424

American boys, had aspirations of becoming the world's greatest baseball player; however Uncle Sam had a different plan for him. In 1965, he was drafted by the U.S. Army and shipped off to boot camp. Six weeks into his training with the Army, officials began making selections for Officer Candidate School. Lew had six credit-hours at the time and was one of two selected out of approximately 110 Soldiers.

very happy," he said. While assigned to the 175th, Lew heard While assigned to the 175th, Lew heard about a pretty German girl, named Iris, who was a graduate student at the Uni-versity of Wurzburg. At the time, Lew was married to his work and had little personal time, but he really wanted to meet her. He was patient and waited nearly a year and half; they were finally introduced through

Saturday morning, Lew and his co-pilot
a moment to observe their surroundings,
were flying a training mission over the village where Iris was staying with her mothvendor, they just might stumble upon an
er. After making a few passes overhead, the
incredible story and learn something.

crup detector warring ngmt came on Com-cidentally, or maybe not, the safest place to land was her backyard. With the chopper blades still spinning and surrounded by 125 people, he flagged her to come over to the helicopter.

Over the roar of the engine, he yelled,
"You have two choices; first one, marry me and the village survives!"
"I forget what the second choice was,"

and the village survivor.
"I forget what the second choice was; he laughed.
And as they say, the rest is history. Lev and Iris have been married for 35 years.

1 Tow's action distr service was com-

As Lew's active-duty service was com-ing to an end in 1975, he knew he wanted ing to an end in 1975, he knew he wanted to sell art. While Iris finished school in Ger-many, Lew traveled all over Europe meet-ing with various artists. Paying homage to his given name, Lew and Iris created Vladi-mir Arts in Ansbach, Germany, in 1975.

"I saw another vendor selling artwork to the military, it was terrible," said Lew. "I've always been a photographer and involved with those types of creative things, so I knew it was something I could do." Today, you can find prints from Vladimir Arts in various Army and Air Force

mir Arts in vanous ram,
Exchanges.
"Our company has really grown," said
Lew. "We proudly serve nearly 250 thousand military customers."
Marine Maj. Andrew Aranda, who was
accountly assistant to the Deferoe Infor-

temporarily assigned to the Defense Infor-mation School at Fort George G. Meade, matton School at Fort George G. Meade, Md., recently purchased a set of three paintings known as "American Freedom," by artist Rick Kelley. The collection fea-tures a mountain range with soaring bald eagles and hints of American icons hidden in the painting. If you look carefully, you will find Lady Liberty painted within the texture of the mountains and you can also see a reflection of the American flag in the

river below.
"Immediately, I connected with Lew when he mentioned he had been a cobra pilot, like me, "said Aranda. "I was happy to do business with him. And the quality of the art work speaks for itself; my wife is going to love them."

So the next time service members and

half, they were finally introduced utuougher aunt and began a relationship.

As it turned out, Lew's decision to return to flying would serve him well. One of their families are passing through the foyer turn to flying would serve him well. One of their local Exchanges, they should take a moment to observe their surroundings.

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Scholarships for Military Children program opens

By Cherie Huntington Defense Commissary Agency Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. – Applications for the 2014 Scholarships for Military Children Program become available Dec. 3, 2013, at com-missaries worldwide or on the Internet at www.militaryscholar.

Applications must be turned into a commissary by close of business Feb. 28, 2014; packages must be hand-delivered or shipped via U.S. Postal Service or other delivery methods, not emailed or laxed.

ample or fased.

This year's award amount has risen to \$2,000 and the program awards at least one scholarship at each commissary with qualified applicants.

An applicant must be a dependent, unmarried child, younger than 21, or 23 if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university, of a service member on active dury, reserve or guard member, retime, survivor of a military member who died while on active duty or survivor of a retiree.

Applicantshould ensure they and their sponsors are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database and have a Department of Defense ID card. The applicant must attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university full time in the fall of 2014 or be enrolled in studies designed to transfer to a focus year program.

time in the fall of 2014 or be enrolled in studies designed to fransfer to a four-year program.

Risher House Foundation, a nonprofitorganization thathelps service members and their families, administers the program. Scholarship Managers, a national nonprofit scholarship—management services organization, manages and awards the scholarships. Commissary partners and the general public donate money to the program; every dollar donated goes directly to funding the scholarships.

Since inception of the program in 2001, more than \$11.3 million in scholarships have been a warded to 7,412 military dependents from more than 7,1000 applicants.

from more than 71,000 applicants.

For more information, students or sponsors should call Schol-arship Managers at (86) 616-9311 or email them at militaryschol-ar@scholarshipmanagers.com.

HMLA

government agen-cies," said Watkins. "In this particular instance, mostly to build and improve maritime security better suited to co

sualty evacuation

swindly evacuation capability and 2nd AABn Marines from Camp Lejeune who conducted the ground and avitation units conducted their own Marines seemtal task training and afterwards, came together to do some integrated training. "The 2nd AABn conducted training in their specialty mostly amphibious assault landings, jungle warfare, hand-to-hand combat, humanitarian assistance, ex-

manitarian assistance, ex-

we did not drop a single prove maritime safety and frag," said Watkins. "We security in Africa.

were able to conduct every-thing asked of us." The HMLA-773 is the

thing asked of us."

The HMLA-773 is the draine corps' largest deployable light attack helicopter squadron, operating in separate detachments at three different East Coast alongside forces from partner nations Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, Benin and Cameroon.

"We are building relationships between the United States and NATO forces and African military government agent and African military government agent of the properties." said Mustice.



better suited to combat their maritime contingencies such as pirating activities."

The SCTF was split up into separate air and ground affine commandos and U.S. rate air and ground selements consisting martial arts training Sept. 18, 2013. of JB MDL Marines (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. who provided ca. Marco Mancha)

utility helicopters.
"We actually conducted

manitarian assistance, exchanging best practices in infantry tactics and ship boarding operations training," said Walkins.
For the "Red Dogs" of the HMLA-773, the training at board the Dutch ship involved aircraft handling and safety and non-combatant evacuations.
"My Marines from HMLA-773 conducted themselves extremely well, our aircraft were maintained at 100 percent readiness and well did not drop a single prove maritime partnership through training and collaborative activities in order to improve maritime partnership through training and collaborative activities in order to improve maritime safety and



U.S. Marines and sailors conduct fast rope drills from a Marine Corps helicopter during Africa Partnership Station 13 at Naval Station Rota, Spain, Aug. 26, 2013. Station 13 at Naval Station Rota, Spain, Aug. 26, 2013.
APS is an international security cooperation initiative facilitated by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa aimed at strengthening global maritime partnerships through training and collaborative activities in order to improve maritime salety and security in Africa.
(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Marco Manchal Released)

The last issue of the 'Air, Land and Sea Times' will be published on Dec. 13. After this, the Joint Base Public Affairs Office will transition to a more enhanced communication approach, using the tools below, to enable us to provide the joint base community with news and key information.



Public Website:

www.jointbasemdl.af.mil



e-Times is an electronic weekly newsletter that will begin publication in January.



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NEWSNOTES

JB MDL Spouses' Club Thrift Shop
The Joint Base McGuire-Dbx-Lakehurst Spouses' Club
Thrift Shop is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. WednesdayFriday and the first Saturday of the month, located at 2508
Can Do Way. The thrift shop accepts gently used donations.
Call 754-2368 for more information.

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Store
The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Store is
open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday 9 a.m. to
on and Thrusday 1-5 p.m. at 158 Berry Road. The sales
income received from thrift shops is returned to the Sallors,
Marines and their families in the form of emergency finand
la relief services. Donations after hours may be placed in
the donation locker located by the front door. Opportunities
are available for volunteers to sort merchandise, arrange
displays and work as cashiers. Call (732) 323-2362 or visit
for more information.

JB MDL Swap Site
Joint base mission partners with excess supply items
or in need of office items can now log in to the Joint Base
McGuire-Dbt-Lakehurst Swap site at www.milsuite.mil/
books/group/jbmdl-swap for re-distribution of supplies.

Visit the milsuite.mil website or call 754-4686 for more

87th LRS Customer Service and Equipment

87th LRS Customer Service and Equipment Accountability Service and Equipment Individuals with inquiries regarding supply customer service, stock control and overpticing program assistance should call 754-3306/1381. Walk-in-hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1757 West Arnold Ave, Room 166. Call 734-5154/4454 for supply parts issue requests/aircraft parts store requests. Call 754-2678/4010 for the equipment accountability office and custodian's assistance. Visit www.drms.dla.mil for DRMO procedures.

Neighborhood Community Watch Meetings
The joint base community is set to hold a meeting for the
neighborhood community watch program from 7 to 8 p.m.
every second Tuesday of the month in Palcons Court North.
The meeting is intended to inform community members on
how they can help protect the community by taking part
in neighborhood watches and patrols. Call 723-6563 for
more information.

Firehouse Movie Night
A movie night is scheduled for 8 p.m. every second Friday
of the month at The Airmen's Firehouse on McGuire.
This event is open to all B-1s through E-4. Free popore
and beverages will be available. Call 754-2233 for more
telegraphics.

87th MDG Training Hours The 87th Medical Group will close for readiness training at noon the first Thursday of each month.

Crafty Birthday Parties

Crafty Birthday Parties

The Arts and Crafts center offers a chance for community members to host birthday parties at the center. Parties include two hours of party room use and one craft project with an instructor and all materials. Choose from a ceramic painting or plush animals parties. Call 562-5691 for more information.

Home School Art Class
The Arts and Crains Center offers a 10-week mixed media
course for ages six and up. Five sessions of pottery and five
sessions of fine arts are included. Call 562-5691 for more

International Spouses' Group
The International Spouses' Group assists foreign-born
spouses with cultural adaptation. The group serves as the
first stop, as well as ongoing support, for multicultural families. The group meets the last Friday of each mornh from
11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for planned social and educational
activities. Call 754-3154 for more information.

Financial Readiness Program
The Financial Readiness Program assists service members and their families in improving personal financial status and their ability to perform as informed consumseatus and their abunty to perform as income consum-ers. The program focuses on improving credit reliability and reducing debt. Available services include: complaint resolution, individual counseling, training classes, resource library, debt liquidation, budget development and planning. Call 754-3154 for more information.

Education and Training ABCs of College Briefing An ABCs of College information session is set to be held every third Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Education Center, 3829 School House Road, Falcon Courts North housing area Room 206. The briefing will provide information on how to choose a school and major, determine payment methods, plan for career success, register for upcoming classes and gain information about degree types. Email gaylor.simons@us.af.mil for more information or to register.

MPS Passport Appointments

The Military Personnel Section passport office will accept appointments only for official passport processing. Appointments are available from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays. Call 754-3826 to schedule an appointment. Tourist passports are not available at this location. Visit www.coburlington.nj.us/pages/pages.aspx?cid=23 for tourist passport locations.

Passport pick-ups will continue to be handled on a walk-in basis during normal MPS customer service hours. As a reminder, customers assigned to the 6th Arlift Equadron, 621st Contingency Response Wing, 21st Expeditionary Mobility Task Force and the U.S. Army have separate passport agents in their units who are able to service their passport/Visa needs. Call 754-1592 for more information.

Library Events Children's Story Time will be at 10 a.m. Thursdays at the Joint Base Library, located at 2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave.

Tuskegee Airmen Meetings
The Hannibal M. "Killer" Cox chapter of the Tuskegee
Airmen Incorporation is set to host its monthly meeting at
5 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Firehouse Club on McGuire. Visit www.tuskegeeairmen.org for more information.

History Tours at Lakehurst
The Navy Lakehurst Historical Society offers tours of
historic Hangar One and the Hindenburg crash size at 10
a.m. every Wednesday and every second and fourth Satur-day of the month. Call (732) 818-7520 for more information.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting
The Alcoholics Anonymous meeting is set to be held
from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Range Control
Headquarters on Dtx. Alcoholics Anonymous is a 12-step Pleadquarters on Dix. Alconoises Anonymous is a 12-sep-support group whose only requirement is the desire to stop drinking. This meeting is an open meeting available to anyone who wants or needs to better understand alco-holism and its effects. There are no dues or fees, only the desire to live a life free from alcohol. Call 562-4011 for more information.

Construction Corner

Demolition of the Thrift Store and Airmen's Attic Demolition of the Thrift Store and Airmen's Attic, located at 3446 Broidy Road to include associated utilities and parking lot, is currently scheduled through Mar. 15, 2014. The old ball room in Pudgy's located at 2508 East Thrift 5t. is being senovated to house the Thrift Store and Airmen's Attic.

McGuire Power Plant Demolition Project Demolition of the McGuire Power Plant and associ-ated facilities will continue through Dec. 30, 2013. Additional truck and construction vehicle traffic can be expected in the area.

From 87th Civil Engineer Squadron

Electrical Shutdown
Five 8-hour electrical shutdowns are tentatively scheduled Dec. 11, 13, 20, 23 and 25, 2013, at building 1097, 1907A and 1908 for the energizing of a rewly installed system.

Thriff Store and Airmen's Attic Demolition Demolition of the Thriff Store and Airmen's Attic, located at 3446 Broidty Road to include associated utilities.

Walson Army Hospital Demolition Demolition of the Walson Army Hospital and asso-ciated facilities is expected to take approximately seven months. Detour around the site will continue through March 2014. New Jersey Avenue will be closed to all but local traffic between 4th Street and Summerall Avenue for the duration of the demolition and traffic will be routed Demonstrate the Miccurier Fower Funct and assort and facilities will continue through Dec. 30, 2013. Additional truck and construction vehicle traffic can be pected in the area.

Water Line Replacement

Water Line Replacement

Water line replacement work is currently scheduled

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Chapel

Chapel Locations

McGuire Chapel – 2503 East Arnold Avenue North Chapel – 3827 School House Road Dix Chapel – 5240 New Jersey Avenue Soldier's Chapel - 5950 Church Street

Cathedral of the Air - 264 Hope Chapel Road, Lakehurst N.J. 08527

Worship Hours

Catholic Wednesday - 11:30 a.m. McGuire Chapel Saturday - 5 p.m. McGuire Chapel Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Dix Chapel

Sunday - 9 a.m. Traditional - Dix Chapel Sunday – 9:45 a.m. Contemporary - North Chapel Sunday – 11:30 a.m. Gospel - McGuire Chapel

Army Support Activity
Sunday - 7:30 a m. LDS - Dia Chapel Sunday - 7:30 a.m. Protestant - Soldier's Chapel

For programs, faith groups, or special language needs not listed, please contact the Chapel at 609-754-4673.

Contacting A Chaplain

When should I call a Chaplain?

Chaplains are available for spritual, relationship and grief counseling. They provide worship services bap weddings and memorials

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To speak with a Chaplain during duty hours (Monda through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) call 609-754-HOPE

For assistance after duty hours, call the Command Post at 609-754-3935 or 3936.



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Can you guess what this is? Submit your guess online at www.facebook. com/jbmdl. Don't forget to check back next week when the full-size photo is

Get to know JB MDL!

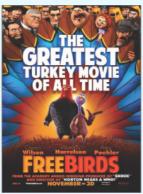


Did you guess last week's close-up photo? It's the height adjustment crank on the Howitzer static display on range road. The Howitzers, which Marine infantry artillery units use, can get quite noisey.

JB MDL Base Theater Movie Schedule



7 p.m. Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R)



Saturday: 2 p.m. Free Birds 3D (PG)



7 p.m. Captain Phillips (PG-13)

Recipe Roundtable

English Toffee

Ingredients:
• 1 cup butter (only real butter can be used in this recipe)

 1 cup sugar
 1/4 cup water
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 3 semi-sweet chocolate baking squares or 1/2 cup choco-late chips
• 1 cup coarsely broken
pecans

Cooking Instructions
In a heavy saucepan, combine butter, sugar, water and
salt. Cook to hard crack stage
(300°P, stirring constantly and
watching carefully. Immediately pour into ungreased 13
inch by nine inch sauce pan.
Cool until hard. Melt chocolate over hot, but not boiling water. Spread over toffee, then sprin-kle with nuts, pressing them into chocolate. Let stand two to three hours or chill 30 minu Break into bite-size pieces. Recipes found at food.com



Weight

Continued from Page 2

The key was how much. You do NOT have to give up the things you love to make meaningful changes in your life! I simply started treating food like a credit card. Each week I was given a certain amount of credit in the form of calories. I could spend of calories. I could spend my credit any way I chose, but I still had to pay the bill. And sometimes, for a man of my "refined" tastes, the bill could be expensive. So how could I up my credit limit?

If you said exercise, then you can have a free cookle.

you can have a free cookle. Logging my calories was a great start, but I knew I would eventually have to start exercising more to see the results I desperately craved. I knew my test con-sisted of running, pushups, and situps. So I went out and bought a new pair of running shoes.

Let me be clear: I don't like exercise. I spend most of my time behind a screen both at work and at home. both at work and at home. But I started running on days when we weren't meeting to do group FT. It was slow at first, and hard, but I kept running. The beautiful thing is that for our purposes, speed is irrelevant. Your attendance is. As the months attendance is As the mortans went by, sometimes I would try to push for distance, and sometimes I would try for time, but always with the same thought in my head: I MUST keep going. Now for the best part, I

discovered weight loss is not

close to my calorie limits, I started losing one to three started losing one to three pounds per week, just like I pounds per week, just like I was supposed to. The more Iran, the more weight I lost, and the easier the running became. I wasn't just trying to pass a test once every 6 months anymore; I was trying to get healthy. But my test components were improving components were improving as well. I was digging myself out of 10 years-worth of excuses, and I won't lie: It was, and continues to be, very hard work.

It's been roughly four and a half months since I first stepped on that scale and had my denial came tumbling down around me. In that time I've lost close to 50 pounds, and just scored a 93.7 on my latest PT test. I still have a long way to go, but after 10 years, I've finally

found my path.

So what does all of this have to do with you? I've made every excuse you could ever make. I've eaten everything I could get my hands on. I've sat out of every game, pretended to be sick, and squirmed my way out of every physical situa-tion under the sun. But those days are over, and as I look back at the old me. I realize I don't miss him. You won't either, I promise. You can break down your

own walls. You can do it to-day. You may be slow, but you'll always be faster than the guy who hasn't started moving yet. You can get as fast, skinny, or healthy as you desire. It takes work. It takes time. And it does take discovered weight toos is not some great mystery of the universe. When you eat less food and do more exercise, you actually lose weight as consequence. By staying because I did.

Tips for losing weight

Nothing will work for you other than that which works for you. Sorry, but it's true. No one can give you a complete map out of your own situation. But perhaps these tips can help you find your way.

1) This will take time. Don't expect to be done in a week, or a month, or a year, or ever. You sen't trying to make a temporary change just to "get in shape". You are shifting lifestyles, and that will take a while, so relax.

trying to make a temporary change just to "get in shape". You are shifting lifestyles, and that will take a while, so relax.

2) Find support (and be supportive). You won't believe how many people will resent you for succeeding at getting healthier. They will call you a nut and offer you food every chance they get. Forget these people, as they are not your friends. On the other hand, when you see someone else trying hard, tell them how it looks like they're succeeding. It can go a LONG way.

3) Don't eliminate foods from your diet. Instead, focus on accurate logging and portion control. Once you start getting rid of foods completely you get into craving territory, and that's dangerous. (One exception: Never, EVER order the wings at Outback. You don't even want to know the calorie count on that one.)

4) Light wheat bread tastes just as good as anything else, has half the calories, and twice the fiber. Just saying.

5) At some point, you will eat an entire pizza by yourself in a single sitting. You are not a bad person or a failure. But you do have to log it, then try again to do better tomorrow.

6) Don't worry about getting everything right at first, but sooner or later you will have to branch out and do something other than running. Find someone to teach you how to lift weights once or twice a week and you'll find that burning calories is that much easier. (Sciences)

7) Don't be afraid to modify your get well plan often, but try to give it a chance at least. My rule of thumb is one month. If something is not showing any results after one full month then it's time to try again.

8) Spend money on a good pair of running shoes. Not cross-trainers. Running shoes. You're going to spend a lot of time with these bad boys, better that they be comfortable.

9) Take note of your weight once a week, no more. It will fluctuate throughout the day and week, so any more than that is pointless. Making a note of your weight once a week gives you a nice, standard data point that will help you see your progress.